

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claims 1-13. (Canceled)

Claim 14. (Currently amended). A method for fermenting a bacterium, producing an enzyme of interest, in a culture medium of at least 50 litres~~liters~~, comprising: adding one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of 1,2-propandiol, 1,3-propandiol, ethylene glycol, trehalose, xylitol, arabitol, dulcitol, erythritol, sorbitol and a polyether having an average molecular weight less than 1000, to the culture medium before and/or during fermentation.

Claim 15. (Previously presented). The method of claim 14, wherein the bacterium is a *Bacillus* strain.

Claim 16. (Previously presented). The method of claim 14, wherein the enzyme is a hydrolase.

Claim 17. (Previously presented). The method of claim 14, wherein the compound is added in an amount of least 0.1 % (w/w) of the culture medium.

Claim 18. (Previously presented). The method of claim 14, wherein the compound is 1,2-propandiol.

Claim 19. (Previously presented). The method of claim 14, wherein in addition to the compound a salt is added to the fermentation medium.

Claim 20. (Previously presented). The method of claim 19, wherein the salt is selected from the group consisting of a chloride, a sulphate, a phosphate, a nitrate, and an ammonium salt.

Claim 21. (Previously presented). The method of claim 14, wherein the enzyme of interest is recovered.

Claim 22. (Previously presented). The method of claim 14, wherein the enzyme is recovered after removal of the bacterium.

Claim 23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the one or more compounds is 1,3-propandiol.

Claim 24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the one or more compounds is 1,3-ethylene glycol.

Claim 25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the one or more compounds is trehalose.

Claim 26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the one or more compounds is xylitol.

Claim 27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the one or more compounds is arabitol.

Claim 28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the one or more compounds is dulcitol.

Claim 29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the one or more compounds is erythritol.

Claim 30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the one or more compounds is sorbitol.

Claim 31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the one or more compounds is a polyether having an average molecular weight less than 1000.